5-8-13

los angeles valley college's
VALLEY STAR
the independent student newspaper

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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES COMES ALIVE DURING THE MAY DAY RALLY.

SEE PAGE 6

CONSTRUCTION AT VALLEY COLLEGE WILL INTRODUCE SIX NEW BUILDINGS TO CAMPUS

Valley College starts a new phase of construction that will include several new structures and the renovation of another.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

LACCD officials joined Valley College President Sue Carleo Tuesday afternoon in breaking ground for the new Community Services Center at Ethel Avenue and Hatteras Street.

The project is the latest in Valley's construction plan, which has seven buildings and facilities slated for completion by March 2016. The other six projects include the Performing and Media Arts Center, the Administration/Workforce Development building, an athletic training facility, a new parking structure, the Monarch Center and a Planetarium building expansion.

"In about six months, we're going to start the new parking structure near Emelita Street," said Carleo. "The structure will be the first building finished because those are the easiest to build ... It's floor and ramps."

According to Carleo, the new parking structure will feature 1,200 parking spaces.

By the end of the spring 2013 semester, the current cafeteria is scheduled to be demolished to make room for the Monarch Center, in which a new cafeteria, bookstore, Student Health Center, Business Office and

|See Construction, Page 2

JOHN STUBE | VALLEY STAR
JOB HUNT- Hundreds of hopeful job seekers flocked to Monarch Hall for last Thursday's Job Fair, in which various companies like Vons participated.

JOB FAIR HAS BIG TURNOUT AT VALLEY

Monarch Hall was host to Valley College's Job Fair last Thursday Afternoon.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

An estimated 700 students, dressed in business attire with resumes in hand, lined up Thursday for the chance to meet with representatives from multiple companies including Sears, Mike Diamond, Mary Kay and Vons as part of Valley College's latest job fair.

Also present were employment agencies and programs specializing in job placement such as Work Source, Chrysalis and the Employment Development Department of California.

"I would say this is probably the biggest [turn out]," said Tony Jaramillo, Valley's senior project coordinator for Job Training, who also oversees the job club. "The first one was really big, but this one rivals it."

Monarch Hall was filled with booths featuring fliers, brochures and even samples. Eager students crowded in, trying to track down job leads and receive assistance from companies like Chrysalis.

"We are a support system," explained Ana M. Gamboa, an employment specialist for Chrysalis, a non-profit organization. "We help with things like resume writing and job leads. Some say we are similar to Work Source but more personal. We have been successful with connecting students with different employers."

Some students were surprised at how many companies and organizations participated in the fair.

"It's more active than I expected it to be," said economics major Alan Feruglil. "I was at the internship fair, and that was fairly quiet compared to this."

Teresa Orozcco, a representative at the Work Source booth, explained that her company attends every job fair at Valley and has been successful with helping students find employment.

Still, Jaramillo voiced his concerns about there being more

|See **Job**, Page2

GOV. JERRY BROWN WANTS TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ENFORCED ON TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed education plan is geared to help more CC students transfer but tightens conditions.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jerry Brown's current plan for higher education would require the UC and CSU systems to admit 10 percent more transfer students from California Community Colleges. At the same time, his proposal would tie state funding of major universities to increasing four-year graduation rates.

"... Decreasing time to completion [of a degree], improving overall completion rates in all higher education segments, and improving the transfer rate of community college students to four-year colleges and universities," is a recurring theme in Brown's proposed budget summary. Though the summary states, "A significant obstacle to timely completion is the unavailability of courses."

Students struggling to earn enough credits at a community college in two years to transfer into these large institutions will feel even more pressure, since Brown wants to see these people complete a bachelor's degree in four years.

Carmen Chandler, a spokesperson for CSUN, said that if these proposals pass, it would deeply affect the university's student population.

"We have non-traditional students," she said, explaining that the average CSUN student is female, attends classes full time and works more than 30 hours a week, often to feed and house herself and dependents.

"... To impose upon our students an expectation that all of the sudden all of those responsibilities they have because they're adults are no long relevant is quite interesting," she said.

It is because of factors like the life circumstances of students and availability of classes that the large systems currently base their graduation rates on six-year plans.

In a recent interview with The San Diego Union-Tribune, CSU Chancellor Timothy White expressed concern over these restrictions and conditions.

"... I never want to get the financial incentives in place that say we are going to ignore those kinds of students or we are going to ignore the students who need remedial work because they take five or six or seven years to get through," he said.

The governor's plan would increase funding to all three college systems from revenue out of the state's General Fund, but a portion of the money would be tied to further strict requirements. CSU's funding would include $10 million specifically to add more high-demand courses, largely through

|See **Education**, Page 2

ASU WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Valley College has a new ASU president for the upcoming 2013-14 school year.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

Making history as ASU's first black female President, Alexia Johnson has a vision of unity and involvement at Valley, where she can advocate for her fellow students.

Growing up in North Hills, California, Johnson knew from a young age she wanted to be involved with people and society.

"I want a career where I can help people" Johnson said. "Since I was 8, that's all I really wanted was to help people".

The sociology major says as president she hopes to make changes that improve the school and student life.

Johnson considers herself a student advocate, with the desire to bring community back to community college and decrease the level of apathy on campus. She plans on bringing knowledge to students on the ways that ASU can benefit them.

Johnson and her team are sponsoring the Strategic Planning Committee to help reduce TAP card prices, improve communication with students by updating the website, and provide a comment box in the ASU office for student ideas. This knowledge can provide more involvement on campus, creating solidarity among students and faculty, she said.

"My priorities include improving the list of benefits that come with paying that $10 ASO fee and encouraging involvement," Johnson said.

When not busy interning at American Federation of Teachers, she is also the president of the Sociology Experiment, a club dedicated to letting individuals discuss, share and celebrate sociology. She brings attention to students using Facebook and personally talking to people.

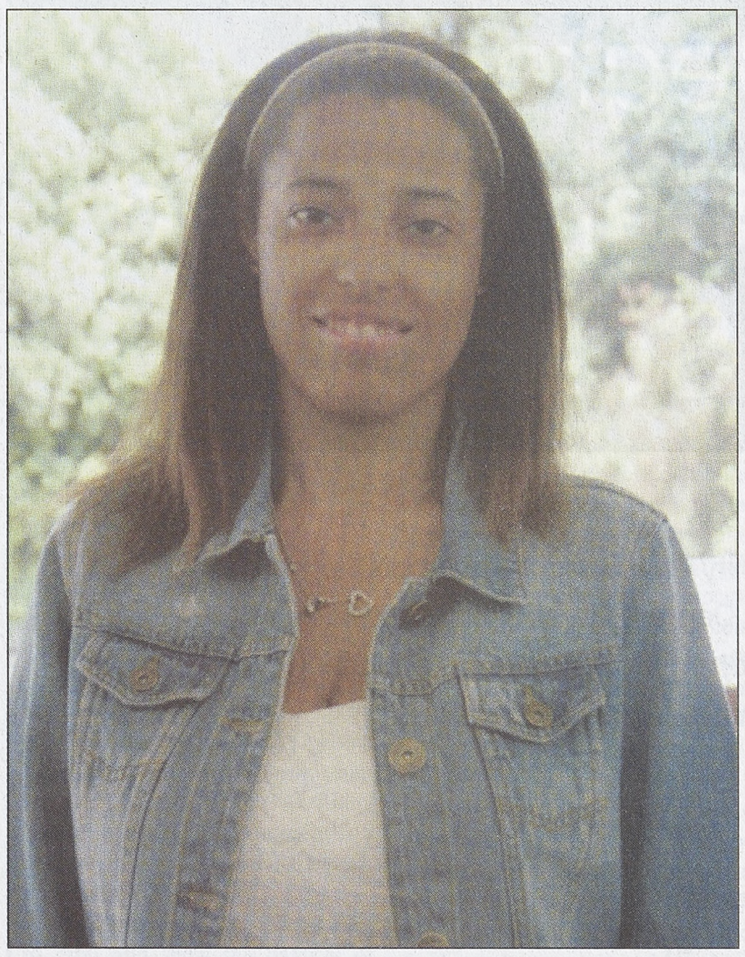
School spirit serves as an important cause for Johnson, as co-chair of the School Spirit Committee, she tries to encourage students to attend sporting and campus events. She makes most football and basketball games. Not only does she attend the events but she also was behind the decision to get Valley a new mascot, Liam the Lion.

"I think it's important to be involved" said Johnson, "Research shows that students who get involved are more likely to stay in school and graduate and make connections with other students and faculty".

Johnson has made several legislative visits to be a voice of students about the disapproval of the 90-unit cap, performance based funding and show support for the oil severance tax to bring more money to higher education.

"I've known Alexia for roughly nine months and we

|See **President**, Page 2



ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR
MAKING HISTORY - Alexia Johnson, who Valley College students voted into office two weeks ago, will be the ASU's first-ever black female president.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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MATH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE ACCELERATED SUMMER WORKSHOP

Valley college students are guaranteed a math class for the fall semester after taking a placement test.

JULIO FLORES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Valley College math department is offering free two-week summer bridge workshops designed to help students increase their scores on the math placement test. The Math Accelerated Pathways program will take place July 29 through Aug. 9.

The three-and-a-half-hours, four-days-a-week course will consist of intensive review, after-class workshops and tutoring.

"We are targeting students who already have a knowledge of math; we're just trying to re-awaken it and help them remember what they've learned," said Luz Shin, the director of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program, which is funding the course. "We are not teaching new material. It's meant for those who already have the skill level but may have forgotten some of the material."

The program consists of two tracks, the Foundational Skills Track and the Pre-Transfer Track. Students who are placed in math 105, 112 or 110, should register for the Foundational Skills Track, while those placing in math 115, 120 or 125 should sign up for the Pre-Transfer Track. After re-assessment, students may be placed in trigonometry, precalculus, calculus with analytical geometry 1 or calculus with analytical geometry 2.

After a student takes the placement test, he or she will receive an add card that guarantees a spot in that class for the fall 2013 semester.

"It's a rare opportunity to retake the math placement test and place higher; this is a way to accelerate your math courses and get to the college-level math quicker," said Shin.

> **"We are targeting students who already have a knowlege of math; we're just trying to reawaken it and help them remembered what they lerned."**
>
> -Luz Shin, director of STEM

"Last year's summer bridge program had 35 percent [of students] scoring higher, and students skipped at least one math level as a direct result of the summer bridge program."

The program's target is to register about 400 students. Last Thursday was Senior Day in which the STEM staff visited high schools to inform seniors who may intend to enroll in Valley in the fall about the program so they, too, could have an opportunity to accelerate their math courses.

"I started at the beginning. The summer bridge program would have been a great opportunity to accelerate my math back then," said Hilda Flores, a tutor for EOPS. "It took me about three years to get through my math requirements. This will be a great opportunity for students to refresh and skip some semesters of math, so they should take advantage of it."

VALLEY COLLEGE AWARDED TREE CAMPUS USA FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

Valley College has been recognized as a Tree Campus USA for the second time. This national program launched in 2008 is supported by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota. Tree Campus USA recognizes colleges that meet their five standards to promote healthy trees and student involvement. Valley is one of seven California colleges honored this year and the only California community college to earn that honor.

Compiled by Brittany Bagwell

Education

Continued from page 1

offering more online classes. It would also have to agree to a freeze on student tuition and fees for the 2013-14 school year. UC would also have to adhere to these parameters.

California Community Colleges will get $617.8 million more in funding than for the 2012-13 school year, including $16.9 million earmarked for adding more core-curriculum classes "through the use of technology." Priority will be given to fund more online courses that are highly sought for general education requirements, "... But only if those courses are aimed at advanced students who are likely to succeed in these types of courses," according to the budget summary text.

Job

Continued from page 1

job seekers than positions available. While unemployment numbers are reportedly dropping, students are still struggling.

Some were even reluctant to take the time to talk to the Valley Star. As Darren Nelson, a radio broadcasting major, put it, "I need a job way more than to be in the paper. I just got here, but it's looking like a good atmosphere; it's looking like success."

President

Continued from page 1

started to become better friends over the months, we have the same views" says ASU Vice President Randdi Misrahi. "Alexia cares for what happens to students, she has the passion, she has the dedication and she has the experience."

Johnson hopes to transfer to UC Irvine and eventually become an OB/GYN, a dream of hers since she was a kid.

"It feels amazing being president", she said. "I haven't won anything before and it is the most important thing I could have won."

Construction

Continued from page 1

Associated Student Union headquarters will be located.

Within the year, construction on the Administration/ Workforce Development building will begin and the former Administration building will be razed.

"We are going to build a two-story ... building and once we finish that, everybody who is in the bungalows along Burbank Boulevard will move into this new building and we can finally get rid of the bungalows on Burbank."

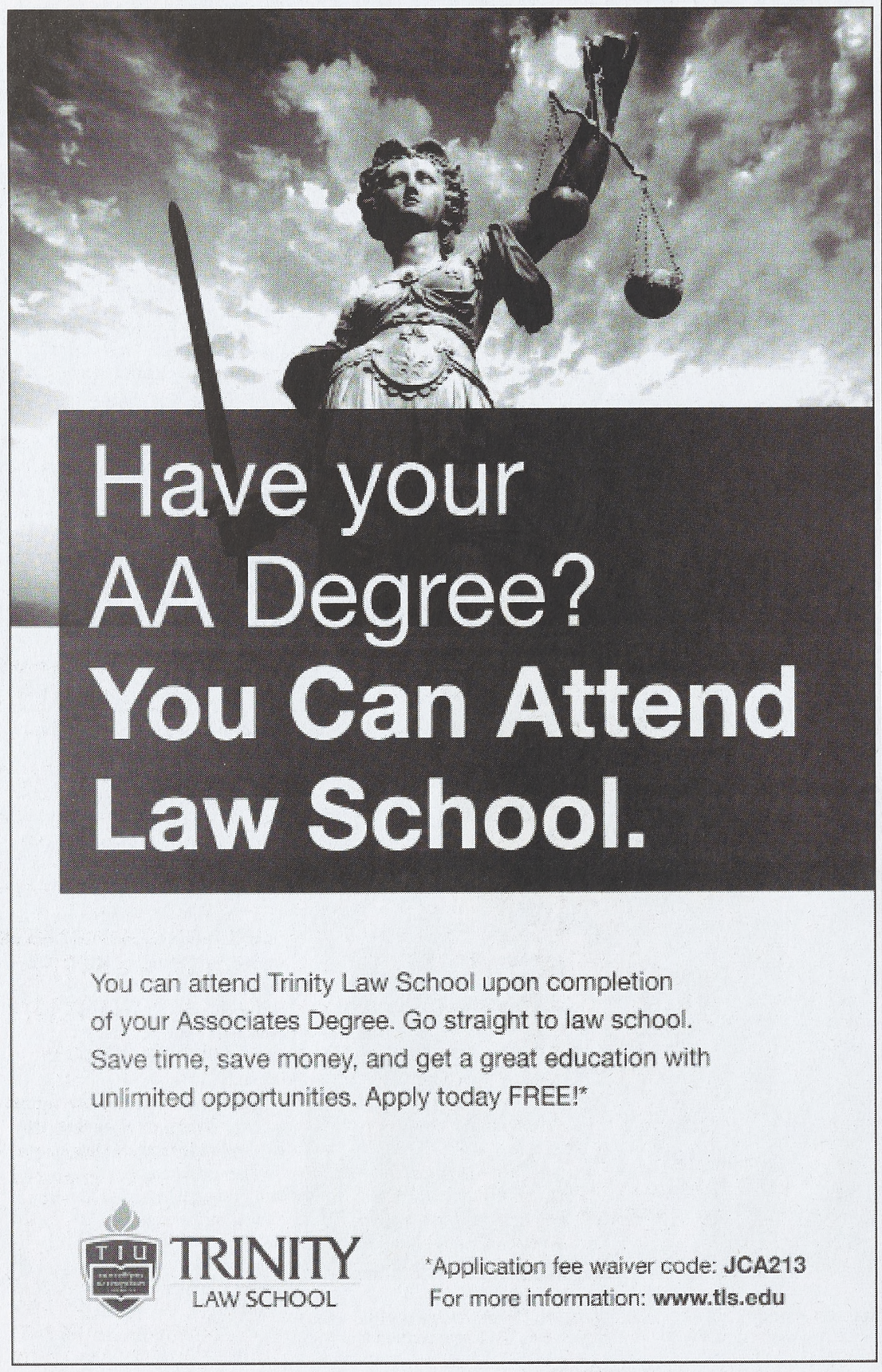
According to Robert Tellez of Yang Management, the company handling construction, the bungalows will be replaced with additional parking for lots H and J.

The construction sequence also includes a new Performing and Media Arts Center, which will bring together the journalism, broadcasting, cinema and performing arts departments and house a newsroom, radio station and four theaters.

"It might change the vibe of the school," said architecture major Solomon Israel regarding the upgrades. "And, it will help to make people take [the school] more seriously."

The increase in construction recently is due to a moratorium, imposed by the district in, being lifted last year. This gives the campus access to the funds it received from voter-approved Propositions A and AA and Measure J.

All construction is schedule to be completed by 2016. For updates regarding construction on campus, visit lavc.edu/revitilizingvalley.



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CELL PHONES IN CLASS: DISTRACTION OR AIDE?

Cell phones have no place in classrooms; it is hard enough for instructors to command their students' attention without the added distraction of unnecessary devices.

HANNAH POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Many students are familiar with that aggravating feeling when a ringtone blasts through a classroom just as they were finally focused and beginning to understand that algebraic expression.

On the Valley College campus, most students can be seen with their cell phones attached to their hands like an extra limb. Unfortunately, these addictive devices are then brought into classrooms and many students remain glued to them despite instructors' warnings.

Why do students find it so hard to be temporarily separated from the world of Facebook and Twitter for an hour or two?

A study done at Stanford University found that a clear majority of almost 1,000 university students were unable to voluntarily avoid their gadgets for one full day.

Of course, many people say that it is not their fault, as they have been born into this digital age. But the blatant and brazen use of cellphones in the classroom while an instructor or fellow classmate is speaking is terribly rude class decorum. These ignorant students

> **"Why do students find it so hard to be temporarily separated from the world of Facebook and Twitter for an hour or two?"**

may not be aware how much they are distracting their fellow classmates.

Yes, of course cell phones can be used productively for education such as taking notes, setting reminders about upcoming exams and other useful apps. But it is less likely that the classmate sitting in the back of the classroom is being productive and more likely that they are completing a new level of Angry Birds.

Instructors cannot and should not have to monitor all students and their ubiquitous cellphones. This is college, and it is the students' responsibility to abide by the rules and not indulge in inconsiderate behavior—even if the class is incredibly boring.

We are all addicted. But unless it is an emergency, keep the cellphone off the desk and focus on the class. Social media will still be there afterwards.

In a modern time, modern devices are apropos in the classroom. Students should utilize every aide available to them.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

C ll phones have served as a constant topic of teacher-student disagreement since the late '90s when cell phones gained popularity. Instructors' desires to have control of their classrooms and their students' undivided attention, but ultimately, the no-phones policy is simply not feasible.

Let's face it; America is moving at a rapid technological pace. A study conducted by Ball State University found that 99.8 percent of college students now have some kind of cell phone and that Smartphones are accounting for more of their electronic communicating and computing needs than ever before.

The days of handwriting notes is out. Students' dependency on these electronic devices can actually add value to the educational experience rather than be a disadvantage to it.

The ever-developing Smartphones have various applications that are designed for students.

Dropbox is a an app designed to store files online, including text documents, PDF files, images, audio files, videos and presentations. Evernote is a useful app that allows students to create a digital notebook including text, images and clips that sync to users' accounts and provides the ability to share notes with other students. AudioNote Lite is helpful for recording audio lectures while also adding written notes that sync along with the audio recording. Other apps include dictionary.com, Documents To Go, Essay Writing Workstation, myHomework and many more.

Many instructors do not use whiteboards or PowerPoint presentations to give information or notes and instead just verbally deliver lectures. Many students fall behind while trying to keep up with the pace of the instructors' talking. Recording voice notes on cell phones can be beneficial. Inputting test dates on cell phones and setting alarm reminders assures no tests will sneak up on a busy student.

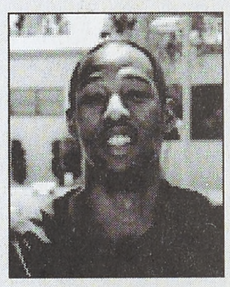
While many attributes of modern-day cell phones are useful for classroom environments and assignments, there is also a safety value having a cell phone on hand. They provide instant communication to anyone in case of emergency—either at home or on campus.

Although the battle between students and instructors over cellphone use will likely continue, but is clear the benefits these devices can contribute to education in a modern time.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CELL PHONES IN CLASSROOMS?

"I think we should use them during class to help us out in case we have trouble."

-SOPHIA CASTELLON
PSYCHOLOGY



"There is no liberty in having access to everything when you're sitting in a class and you have to focus on something that you need to learn."

-GIANNI WASHINGTON
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

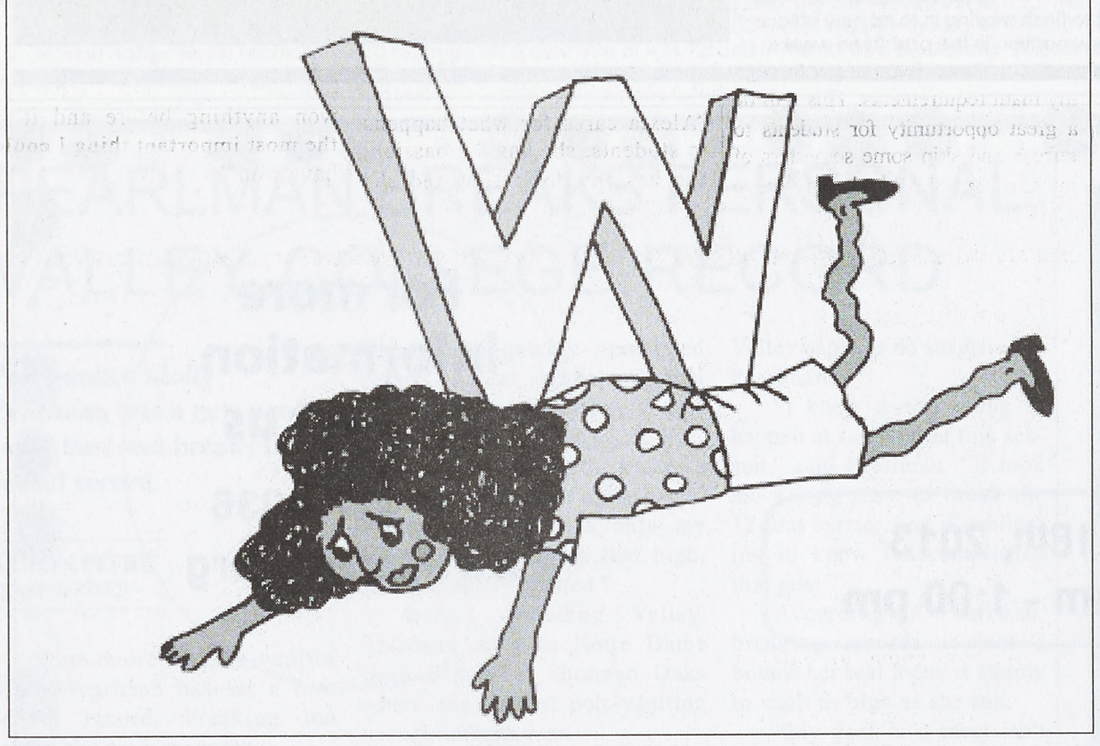
"I don't think we should be able to. If we're here to learn, then why not learn and focus?"

-AMANDA VEGA
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"We can use [cellphones] to look up defintions we don't understand or to use a calculator."

-CARLOS RAMOS
BROADCASTING

PHOTOS BY JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

ANONYMOUS CHANGES THE WORLD ONE HACK AT A TIME

Anonymous uses "hacktivism" to bring about social consciousness.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Anonymous is anything but anonymous. You might not know who they are, but you know what they have done.

Popularizing the "V for Vendetta" mask, they attacked Scientology, brought to light the Steubenville rape case, occupied Wall Street and are responsible for numerous other hacks against those who infringe on liberty and justice,

Anonymous has become the Robin Hood of our time. They are trying to keep society honest, and the world should be thankful.

With the slogan, "We are Anonymous. We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget," these "hacktivists" have left authorities scratching their heads with a series of cyber attacks and community policing throughout the world. They are responsible for the first arrest of an online predator by Internet vigilantism when they tracked down Chris Forcand. Leading to him being charged with multiple counts of pedophilia and weapons-related crimes.

In 2008, Anonymous posted an unflattering video on YouTube that Tom Cruise made for Scientology. In response The Church of Scientology filed a copyright violation claim against YouTube. Unlike anyone before them, Anonymous did not cower to Scientology's army of lawyers and brought the fight to them in the form of Project Changology, which was a series of cyber attacks and worldwide protests against the "religious organization" for their affront on freedom of speech and financial exploitation of their members.

Anonymous also did their civic duty—when other community leaders turned a blind eye—by compiling incriminating evidence of Steubenville High School football players gang raping an underage girl, releasing video, photos and tweets from the footballers and emails exposing an alleged cover-up from one of the team's boosters.

On a Yahoo Answers page asking their opinion on Anonymous, a user commented, "They are fantastic and restore my faith in humanity. They bring to light controversial issues that may not always be 'proper' but I absolutely love that they speak their mind and are blunt about the issues of the world, these issues need to be out and made aware of. Love them!"

In the film "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance," newspaperman Maxwell Scott responded to someone asking if he was going to print the truth, "No sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

Anonymous' legend is based on facts, and that's why we should be grateful.

STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR WITHDRAWING FROM CLASSES

When struggling in classes, students have to weigh their options between taking W's or risking impacting their GPAs.

H AH POWERS
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Some classes just are not for everyone, and after receiving awful midterm grades, students face the decision of either shooting for a passing final grade with the possibility of a fail or dropping the class and getting a W.

Students can drop a class at any time. If it is dropped before the second week of the semester's start, then no penalty will be issued. There is then a second date to drop by, which will get the student a W—or withdrawal—on their transcripts. Anything later than that is a fail. One W will not make or break a student's chances to transfer to the university of their choice, but the more W's one rakes up, the more of a damper it puts on their transcripts. But should W's really be such a big deal on transcripts when transferring to a four-year college?

There is definitely such a thing as too many W's, with some current students at Valley College having approximately 15 or more. But when transferring, colleges should not view those W's on a student's transcript as fails. They should see that the student was smart enough to withdraw themselves from the class before it affected their precious GPA.

Unfortunately, the W's on the transcript do not tell the real story. When college officials are reading transcripts, they see the W's and a student's chances of admittance are decreased. They are unaware that maybe the class was not dropped because of failing, but instead because of family or medical issues or lacking sufficient funds.

It's a catch-22 situation: either drop and incur the W and have that on "your permanent record" or study like a crazy person the night before the final and try to pull off a passing grade. If the studying doesn't pay off, students can be left with an awful F, which heavily decrease their GPAs.

The decision to withdraw should not be made lightly. "Every student's situation is different," said Valley counselor Joyce Romero. "Students should really come talk to a counselor and we can help them make the right choice."

3-D GUNS ILLADVISED MOVE

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

In a time when children are being gunned down in elementary schools, maniacs are opening fire in movie theaters and congresswomen are being shot in the head at political rallies, someone thought it was a good idea to make printable 3-D guns—allowing nut-jobs to make guns at home.

For those unfamiliar with 3-D printing, it is a printer that can print objects by spraying layers of plastic, metal or ceramics into shapes, ranging from $1,000 to $50,000. Many became aware of 3-D printers after a study on the medical benefits, including printable organs.

It did not take long for the shoe to drop and show the dangers of these devices. The Internet is buzzing about the "Liberator," the first 3-D gun, which fired a bullet. A plastic handgun with the exception of its metal firing pin was assembled from parts made with one of these printers. A 3-D gun has already made it to eBay and is on sale for $8,000.

These guns are considered the evolution of the Zip gun popularized by street gangs in the '50s. Unfortunately, there are how-to videos on the web detailing the process step by step. The ingredients: A coupling, pipe, adapters, a drill bit and ammo. Most of the items are found at any hardware store and purchasable without raising any suspicions, costing as low as $2.

Libertarians are ecstatic about the break through, seeing it as the answer to governmental attempts at gun reform. Others argue a perfected a 3-D gun is a ways away, but luckily lawmakers are already making plans to create measures to ban the gun. The biggest concern should be the effects it will have on crime as the gun does not have a serial number and will make it harder for the authorities to solve investigations. It is sad that an invention such as the 3-D printer made to advance humanity has already been tainted.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: **editor@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

May

Wednesday, 8th

HIV & Hepatitis C Testing sponsored by the LAVC Health Cener
Outside Health and Allied Sciences Building
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free Wednesday Concert #11 featuring the Kadima Sting Quartet sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Music Recital Hall, Music 106
1 p.m.

Free "AB 540 Workshop" sponsored by the LAVC Career/ Transfer Center
Career/Transfer Center, Student Annex
2 p.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th

"Depression: The Workshop" sponsored by the LAVC
Cafeteria Conference Room
1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Thursday, 9th

"Introduction to Screenplays"Workshop
Sponsored by the LAVC Writing Center
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Library and Academic Resource Center 229

"Undecided Major/Career Workshop" sponsored by the LAVC Career/Transfer Center
5 p.m.-6 p.m.
Career/Transfer Center, Student Services Annex

Friday, 17th

Planetarium Show"Ringworld" sponsored by LAVC Earth Science Department
8 p.m.-9 p.m.
Planetarium

NEW GUY ON CAMPUS MEANS NEW IDEAS FOR VALLEY COLLEGE DEFICIT

A look at the hardwork and background of Valley's new VP of Administration Services.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Tanned and energetic, the new vice president of Administration Services hopes to finally make the school solvent. With his sleeves rolled up and his jacket on his chair, Chris Bonvenuto has a more of a movie producer look to him than an accountant.

"It's been a hectic three weeks," said Bonvenuto as he pointed to the unpacked boxes. "But we got all but one construction project out of moratorium, and I'm ready to work and get to know the students."

Bonvenuto is responsible for the operations of the Administrative Services, which include maintaining the budget, the bookstore, Business Office, construction, Maintenance and Operations, Payroll, Information Technology, Community Services, the athletic department, the branch of the Sheriff's Department located on campus, the mailroom, and inventory.

A lifelong "education person," he has worked in the education field his whole adult life. Before coming to Valley, Bonvenuto served as the director of Fiscal Servi ces for Santa Monica College, overseeing all of the district's financial-related activities including finance, budget, accounting and auditing. He also worked with the Los Angeles City College Foundation as senior accountant and the Los Angeles County Office of Education as a behavior manager, and he still carries his business card from that time as a reminder of where he started. Bonvenuto is a product of the California Community Colleges System and holds a bachelor's degree in accountancy.

"I was 18, working four jobs and raising a daughter," said Bonvenuto. "I took classes at El Camino Community College at night. I'm proud of that. Community college gave me an opportunity to succeed."

The Connecticut native has many admirers among the faculty and staff.

"Coming from Santa Monica College, he has a lot of interesting ideas on revenue sources," said Administrative Assistant Arlene Stein. "It's only been three weeks or so, but it's exciting."

He's facing a tough task. The school has the largest deficit in the district—$1.7 million—but he looks forward to the challenge. "I'm a numbers guy."

JAHSAUDI PERKINS| VALLEY STAR

LOOKING FORWARD-Bonvenuto has yet to finish moving in to his new officce as he is too busy working away at his new position in the past three weeks.

VALLEY COLLEGE DANCE PROGRAM OPENS DOORS THROUGH NEW SHOW

Spring production dances in different areas of performance.

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

More than 30 Valley College performers will explore through dance the literal and metaphorical concepts of the opening and closing of "Windows and Doors," which debuts later this month.

"There is a section where the dancers stand very close together and quickly move apart to reveal what is happening behind them - as if they are opening a door," said dance faulty member and co-producer Liz Casebolt. "This is also a metaphor for what we keep hidden from the world and what we choose to reveal."

Valley's dance program presents their spring 2013 production, "Windows and Doors," on May 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. at the Main Stage Theater. The show consists of 12 diverse dance compositions ranging from West African, hip-hop to modern and contemporary. The acts are choreographed by eight faculty members and four students. According to Casebolt, the majority of the performers are enrolled in the dance production class. In addition to rehearsing choreography, students will also gain the experience of running a show.

"All of the performers in the show also have other jobs that they are required to take on," said Casebolt. The students also perform a number of other duties during the performance such as running the stage, managing performances, organizing props and sell concessions during intermission.

There are numerous props in this spring production, including edible scenery. The audience may spot on stage frozen yogurt inside a cooler while viewing Jeanette Fussell and Victoria Wolfe's act. The duo spent more than a year preparing their modern piece. The ensemble will express how the two friends interact with each other through the art of dance. Besides their idea to showcase communication by movement, the chorographers also strategized a way to communicate with each other, through a microphone taped on the dancers' faces.

"We have two boxes, one full of dance phrases and the other full of topics to talk about," said 22-year-old Fussell. "The dance phrases are choreographed, but the topics and phrases will be pulled out randomly so each night will vary."

"Windows and Doors" is open to the public; tickets are available at brownpapertickets.com. Prices range from $10 to $14.

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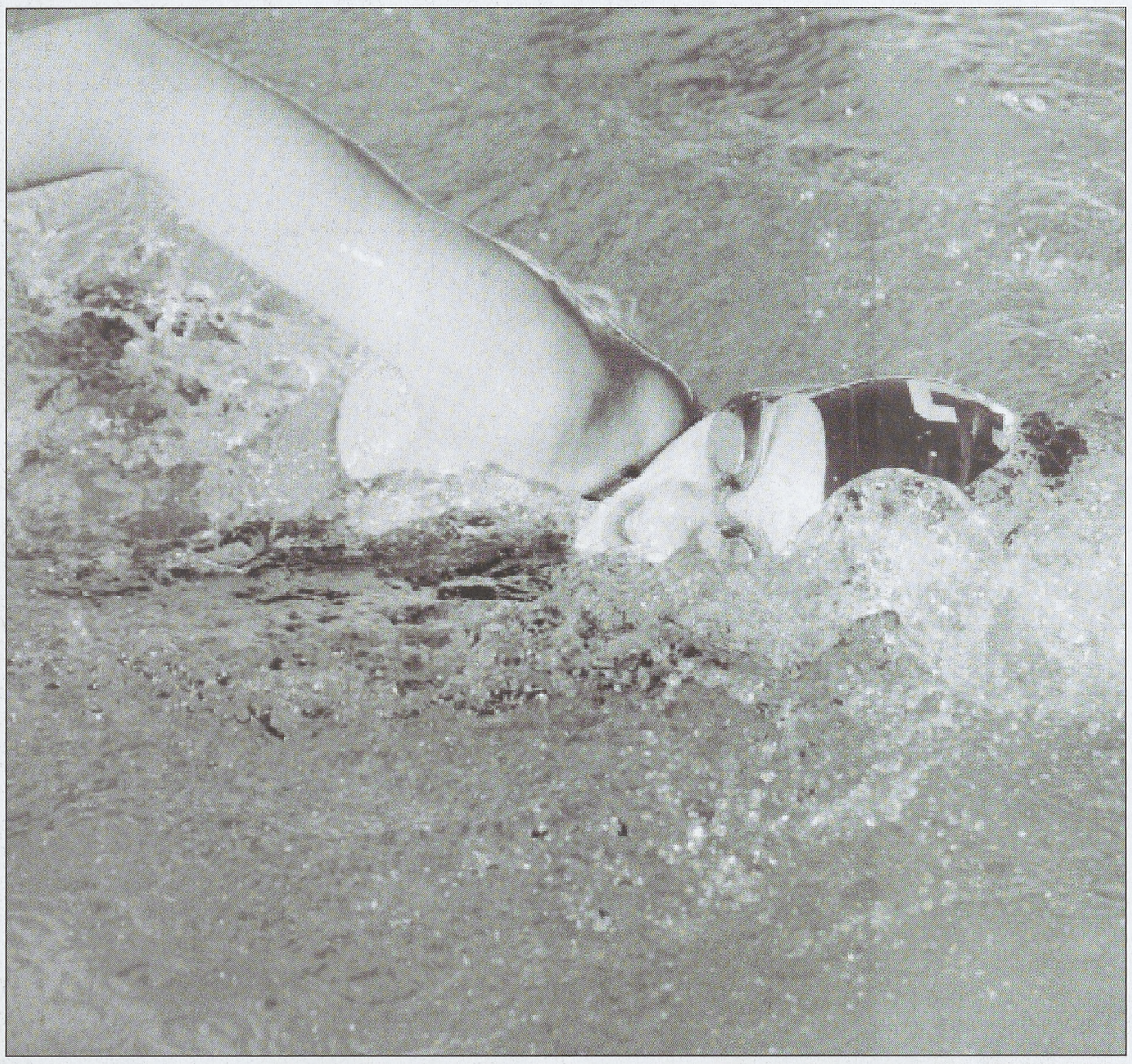
RECORD SETTING



ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR

SWIMMING - The Lady Monarchs swim team continued to set records this season. On the women's side, a 23-year-old records were broken by Mor Flaisman, who swam a 5:12.46 in the 500 freestyle and also broke the 200-meter freestyle record. In the 400 medley relay, Cassidy Swick, Sabrina Hatzer, Nayiri Kechichian and Flaisman set a new time of 4:14.92; and in the 50-yard backstroke, Swick finished with a time of 29.83.

ANALYZE THIS

LOS ANGELES CAN'T GET A WINNING TEAM

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Spoiled. That is what Angelinos have become: spoiled. We are so used to having winning sports teams that when our teams aren't winning, we aren't living. Our days look as cloudy and grey as these rainy May days.

The Lakers had one of, if not the worst, seasons in franchise history. They had a "star" center that didn't shine as bright as what he was supposed to. The bench, well there was no bench, as there was no coach.

The team had not looked this bad since Kwame Brown and Smush Parker were on it.

It seemed as if the best part of the season was watching Kobe play like he really was 24 again. But then, he reminded us that age does catch up to you when he went down due to a torn Achilles' tendon.

The Clippers where the complete opposite, completing what has been called the best regular season in franchise history, winning the pacific devision. It almost seemed as if we were in an episode of the "Twilight Zone" where the Clippers were the team others feared when they came to Los Angeles.

But then, they reminded us the Clippers are still the Clippers who have no post-season experience and lost to Memphis in the first round of the playoffs.

There will be no parade down Figueroa Boulevard this summer.

As far as baseball goes, both Los Angeles teams have started the season the way the Lakers carried theirs, under .500 and near the bottom in their conference.

The Dodgers' line-up looked good on paper, but that only goes so far if the team can't execute. Matt Kemp, who is supposed to be the leader of the team, couldn't hit a home run if he was thrown an underhand pitch.

Hanley Ramirez's return from the DL list lasted as long as the Lakers' post-season performance, putting himself back on it after injuring his hamstring in his fourth game back against the Giants. To top things off, Pitcher Chad Billingsley is out for the rest of the season due to Tommy John surgery.

The boys in blue keep giving themselves more to feel blue about.

As far as the Angels go, they have had the worst start to a season in franchise history, going 11-20 in the first 31 games, and Mike Trout could not catch a fly ball if the ball was headed right to his glove.

It looks as if there is some sad summer days ahead for Angelinos. That is unless the Kings can have a repeat of last season and keep L.A relevant to its winning tradition.

E-mail Romeo Gonzalez at *@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

PEARLMAN BREAKS PERSONAL, VALLEY COLLEGE RECORD

Pole-vaulter Molly Pearlman sets a new personal best and breaks the school record.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore pole-vaulter Molly Pearlman has set a new school record, breaking the record she set last season.

On March 30 at the Antelope Valley Invitationals, Pearlman set a personal best, clearing 12'1.5", and at April 13's Mt. Sac Relays, she quickly one-upped herself and set another personal best, while also setting a new school record, clearing 12'2.5".

"It was nice to clear a height above 12 feet again," said Pearlman. "This was only my second time jumping that high, so I was really excited."

Before attending Valley, Pearlman went to Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks where she started pole-vaulting her sophomore year.

There, she competed at the varsity level all the way to her senior year where she broke the old school record there, too. Breaking her own record at Valley came as no surprise for Pearlman.

"I knew it was going to happen at some point this season," said Pearlman. "It took me a long time to break the 12-foot barrier, and it's relieving to know I accomplished that goal."

According to Pearlman, breaking records is just a bonus; her real focus is simply to vault as high as she can.

"My goal in a meet isn't to break any records," said Pearlman. "I like to jump well and jump high. When that happens, I may or may not set a personal record."

Pearlman majors in kinesiology with a focus in exercise science and aspires to be a physical therapist. She seeks to continue her pole-vaulting career at a four-year university and has a few options for the fall 2013 semester.

Brooks Morris, her current pole-vaulting coach at Valley, has been working with her since 2010. She always consults Morris for instructions and follows them to the best of her abilities.

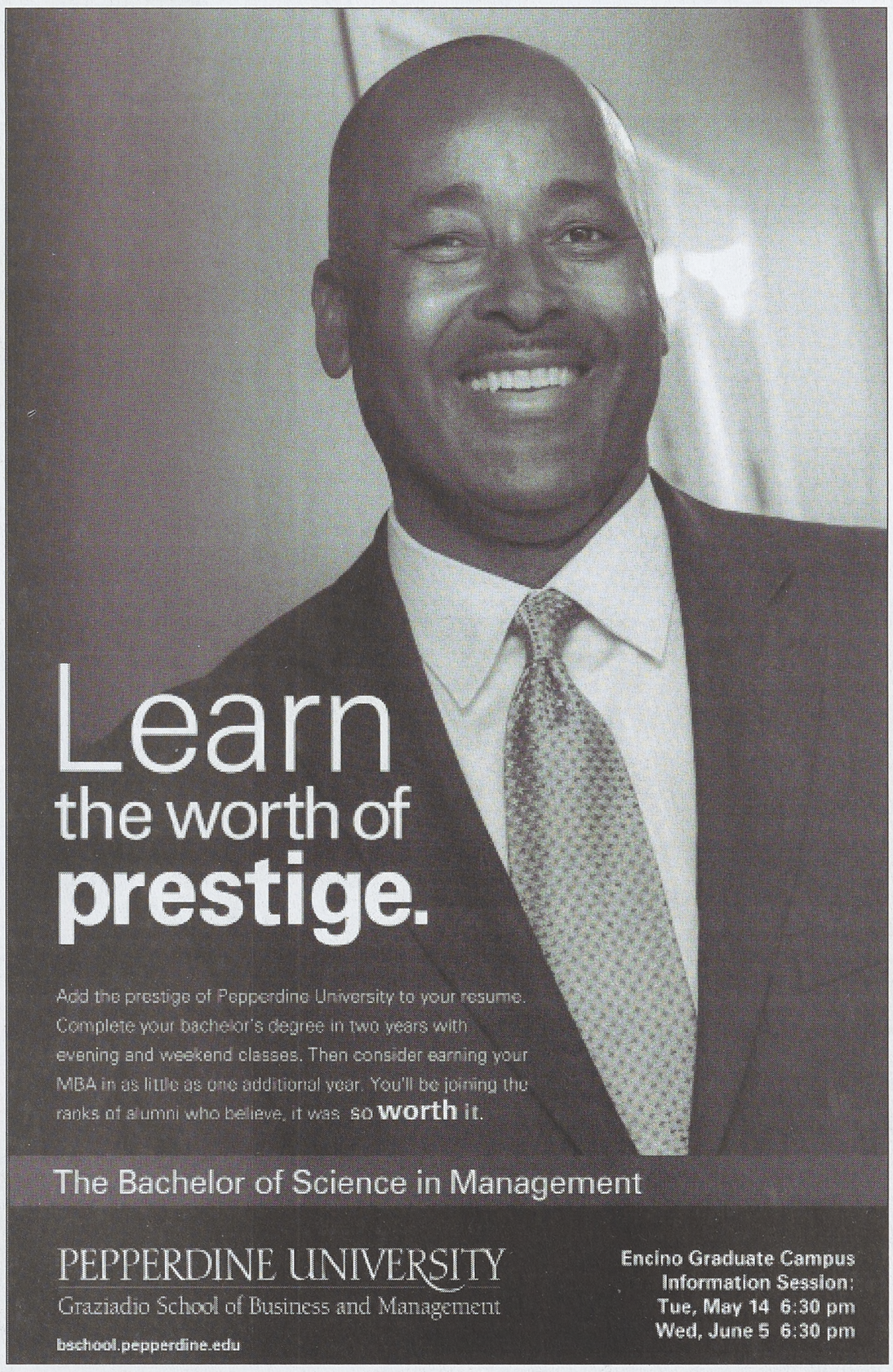
"He's taught me everything I know about pole-vault, and I would be a lot less focused without him," said Pearlman.

Pearlman's accomplishments have come as no surprise to Morris.

"She works hard, and we expect it," said Morris. "We expect the work, the improvement, the class, the sportsmanship, the good grades and the competitiveness from all the kids at the school and in our club."

ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR

RECORD BREAKING - Molly Pearlman set a school record at the Antelope Valley Invitational on March 30 and broke it again April 13 at Mt. SAC.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MAY DAY MARCHES INTO DOWNTOWN L.A.

PHOTOS BY:
MORRIS DE LA ROCA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

TEXT BY:
RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

LAYOUT BY:
JAHSAUDI PERKINS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Los Angeles for the annual May Day rally last Wednesday. The yearly march, which began as a protest for workers' rights, has progressed into a community mouthpiece for immigration reform in recent years.

Though crowds were smaller this year than in the past, workers—many undocumented—from multiple nationalities were represented. In a city that frequently highlights the struggles of Latinos, immigration rights groups and labor unions displayed signs in languages from Spanish to Chinese.

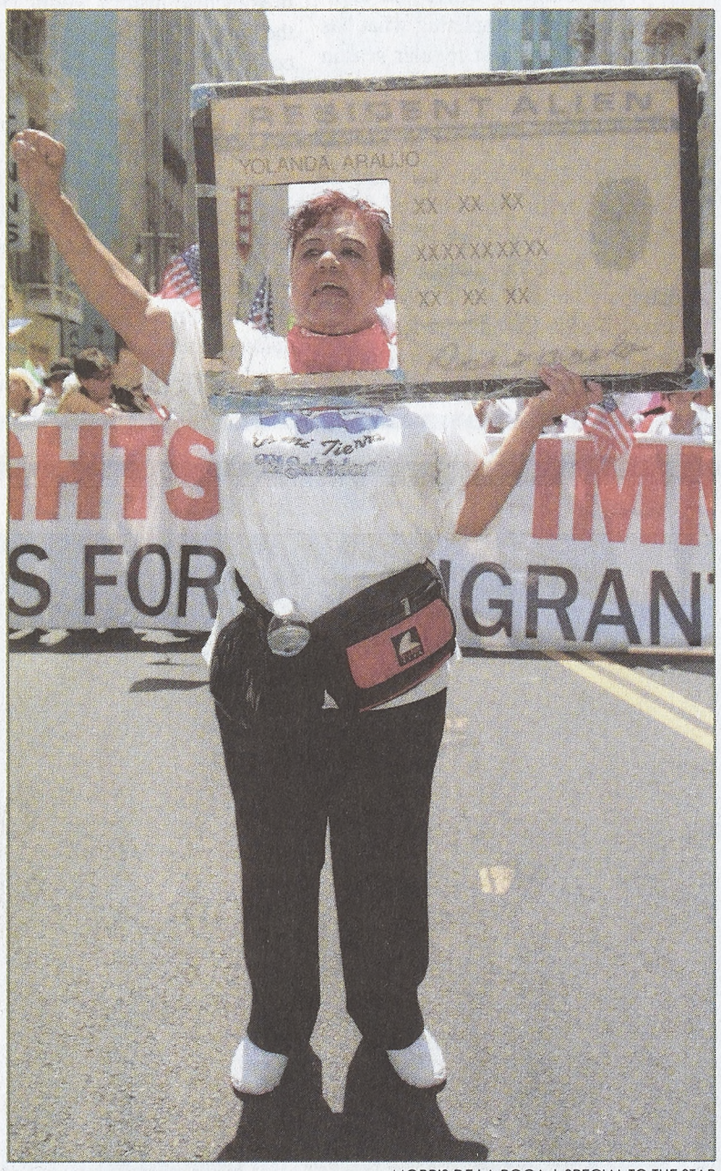
The Los Angeles march began at Olympic Boulevard and Broadway and ended at Olvera Street. Shouts of "Listen up, Obama: We are in the fight" echoed in Spanish through the streets. Pending legislation on Capitol Hill has given many illegal immigrants hope that a pathway to legal status is forthcoming. There are an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, comprising a large portion of the country's economy and manual labor force.

The march also placed emphasis on family unity. The bill before the U.S. Senate would not allow green cards to be extended to grown siblings if it is passed. In some Asian cultures where extended family is still considered immediate family, the issue has raised concerns.

Leilani Peltz contributed to this story.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

CULTURAL PRIDE - A march participant in traditional ethnic dress.



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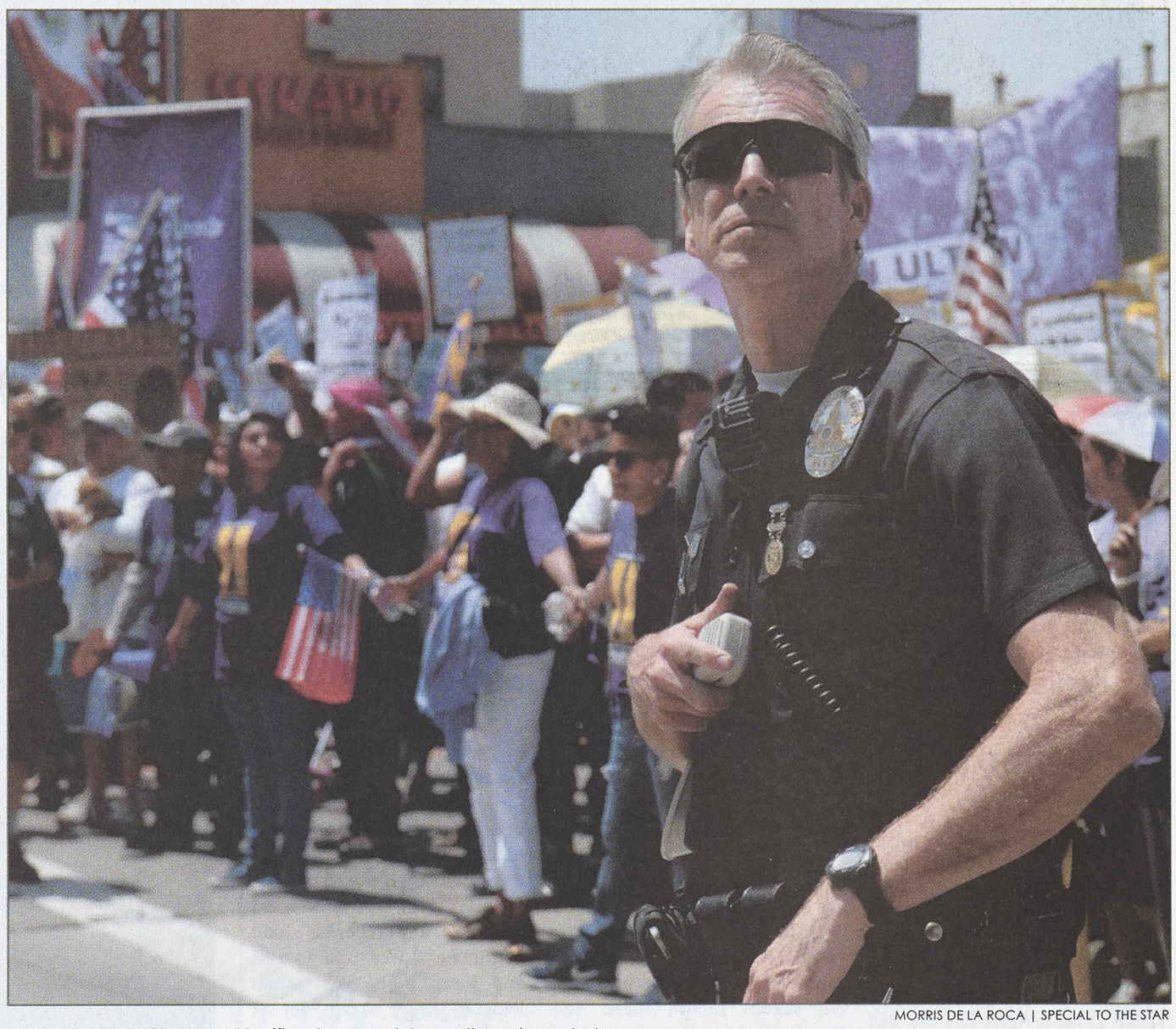
RESIDENT PROTESTER - A woman marches in support of legal status.



MORRIS DE LA ROCA | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

KEEPING THE PEACE - An LAPD officer keeps watch over the calm protest.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

SIGNS OF THE TIMES - Marchers carry signs in multiple languages.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

AMERICAN BAND STAND - Latino musicians play for the multi-cultural crowd.